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A Handbook of Labor Literature; Being a Classified and Annotated List of the More Important Books and Pamphlets in the English Language. Compiled by HELEN MAROT. Philadelphia: Free Library of Economics and Political Science, 1899. 12mo, pp. viii + 96.

THIS little handbook will prove of real service to the reader who wishes to find the more important works dealing with various phases of the labor problem without wading through some ponderous and exhaustive bibliography. It is, of course, incomplete—it would defeat its purpose were it otherwise—but the thousand titles are well chosen; they are conveniently classified under some thirty heads, and a brief note tells what is the general scope of each book. Altogether the work is well done: so well done that it is a pity that it is not better done. One hears continually preached the necessity of good workmanship even in the humbler mechanic arts. It would seem that a suspicion of slovenly workmanship is fully as reprehensible in the world of letters as in that of material production; and even an introductory disclaimer that the compiler does not profess always to give the exact title does not forefend the criticism that a good workman *ought* to be exact. It is to be regretted that in many cases the date of publication—so important an item—has been omitted, and the list of labor periodicals is of comparatively little use without some indication of the period during which the various journals have been published. The subscription price of periodicals, which the compiler omits, is as essential as the publication price of the books, which is generally given. It is also unfortunate to find an occasional slip in the name of an author.

H. R. H.

The City Wilderness. A Settlement Study. By Residents and Associates of the South End House, Boston. Edited by ROBERT A. WOODS. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1898. 12mo. pp. vii + 319.

THIS volume is similar to the *Hull House Maps and Papers* issued some time ago by the residents of Hull House, Chicago. Ten papers on the conditions and life of a congested quarter of a great city, with an introductory description of the region studied, an historical chapter, and a few maps and charts make up the book. It represents an

attempt to do for a portion of Boston what Charles Booth's studies have done for a large part of London, although in the present work the detailed statistical work is wanting.

A large part of such a book is necessarily of but local interest, and is of special value only to those who are interested, in one way or another, in the district studied. The general and permanent interest of social investigations of a "city wilderness" will depend upon the ability of the investigators to see the universal in the particulars they describe, and the success with which they reveal it. A mere aggregation of details is of little importance. Some of the conditions have changed before the book is ready for the press. A book containing nothing more than a mass of accumulated observations is a "wilderness" itself.

The criticism I have just implied holds in part, I think, in regard to the present work, at least in so far as it is addressed to the general student. Local description occupies too large a space. We care much less, for instance, about the standing and practices of the individual churches of a district than about the religious life of the people as it is manifested in their attitude toward the church, and the causes influencing the same. Yet the chapter on "The Church and the People" is devoted almost exclusively to the special activities of individual churches. A mere analysis of the religious institutions of a given locality throws little light upon the really important problems connected with the church.

The criticism as to uninteresting and unimportant details does not hold, however, in regard to special chapters as, for instance, the one on "The Roots of Political Power." Here we have a vivid description of the influences at work in the development of ward politics. The secret springs of action are shown. The inevitable results of such conditions, whether in Boston or elsewhere, are plainly revealed. The study is, therefore, of far more value than a mere analysis of the party politics of the district, and an account of the various losses now dominant. The chapter is all the better for the limitations enforced by the desire of the writer to manifest due "consideration for certain interests that involve outside persons."

Whatever the permanent value of a publication of this kind, and I do not mean to imply that it is not considerable, there can be no question of the subjective value of the study it represents. Every citizen should avail himself of such assistance as can be obtained by acquaint-

ing himself with the conditions of his own community. He should be a careful student of his own "wilderness," for it is probable that he is in one or has one near at hand. Books like the present one will, if widely read, stimulate an interest which will result, it is hoped, in making others, each in his own sphere, social settlement workers.

I. W. HOWERTH.

How it can be Done; or Constructive Socialism. By JOHN RICHARDSON. Second edition. London: Twentieth Century Press, 1898. 12mo, pp. xii + 222.

THE purpose of the author is to remove the reproach so often cast upon reformers, that they are mere fault-finders with present conditions and that they present no definite idea of what they would have done or how it could be done. His efforts are constructive, nothing in the present system would be destroyed except as something better took its place.

Mr. Richardson agrees with those who think that one of the greatest difficulties in maintaining a socialist state is the dearth of socialists; and hence to make provision for these is his first care. This he would accomplish through a complete state system of "maintenance, education and training" for all the children of the country. This training should begin at a very early age in the infant schools and continue through childhood and youth to the age of twenty-one, when the university course would be completed. This could be accomplished by an extension of the means already provided in an inadequate measure. To the age of fourteen, children would be allowed to live at their homes, if they had suitable ones, otherwise continually at the school. In any case there would be served to all pupils of every grade at least two meals per day provided by the state. The pupils would wear a uniform provided at public expense. This would tend to break down factitious distinctions between pupils, leaving only those of intelligence and physique. From fourteen to twenty-one, students in the higher schools and universities would be required to take up their residence at the schools. No radical departure from the present courses of study is suggested, though more attention would be paid throughout the system to modern languages, music and art, physical exercise and, above all, to technical training, the object of which would be, "not as now, the training merely of the faculties, but the produc-